

*Smoking & Health
Germany*

Mr. A. Holtzman

March 11, 1980

R. B. Seligman

RJR Meeting Notes from the VdC

Thank you for sending the meeting notes written by Mr. Pelz. I found them very interesting. You asked for comments and they follow:

The statement by the President of the German Federal Health Office that people compensate when smoking low-tar cigarettes is a bit disturbing. I don't believe there is factual proof that this takes place. To have a Federal official infer that low-tar cigarettes are industry instigated rather than marketplace dictated is erroneous and should be challenged.

The VdC's interest in harmene/norharmene and the carboline compounds is significant. The harmanes we know are present in smoke and the carbolines may be present in smoke. Some of the latter compounds are extremely carcinogenic and have been claimed by Dr. Sigimura of Japan of being the "ultimate carcinogen."

Professor Kunze's (of Austria) exposure numbers and inferred relationship to the likelihood of cancer is an extremely dangerous development. It makes the Hertzfeld Index and the Gori Index child's play. It is particularly damaging if he publicly cites specific brands.

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• On the subject of Beiträge, it would be most unfortunate if this publication ceased. It is the one publication of international stature within tobacco technology groups.

• Listing smoking with other chemicals is an unfortunate precedent. I'd hate to see "threshold limiting values" for Marlboros in U.S.A. industrial sites.

I'd be pleased to have your comments on the above.

RBS/sgr

cc: Dr. T. S. Osdene

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